

Message Text

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64

ACTION AF-08

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R 171435Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9779

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS NAIROBI 5025

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDEV, PFOR, KE, RH, SF, OAU

SUBJ: NKOMO PRESS INTERVIEW IN NAIROBI

1. SUMMARY: IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN NAIROBI MAY 16 SUNDAY NATION, RHODESIAN NATIONALIST LEADER JOSHUA NKOMO GAVE HIS VIEWS ON DIVISIONS WITHIN ANC AND OTHER ZIMBABWE FACTIONS, ACCEPTING ARMED AID FROM THE EASTERN BLOC, FUTILITY OF FURTHER TALKS WITH SMITH, AND USEFULLNESS OF HIS RECENT TALKS WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER. END SUMMARY.

2. NKOMO SAID HE HAS "NOTHING TO DISCUSS" WITH THE MUZOREWA FACTION OF ANC. "IF HE (MUZOREWA) IS READY TO WORK WITH US, WE ARE PREPARED TO COOPERATE WITH ANY-BODY WHO IS FOR LIBERATING OUR COUNTRY," HE SAID. BUT "TIME TO DISCUSS, I HAVEN'T GOT. THE ONLY TIME I HAVE IS TO STRUGGLE TO FREE THE COUNTRY." NKOMO DISMISSED RECENT ZIPA ARMY MANIFESTO AS WORK OF ONE INDIVIDUAL--
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MAWEMA--AND SAID HE WAS "GLAD THAT THE DOCUMENT WAS

CHALLENGED IN TANZANIA AN REFUTED." HE SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE ZIPA DOCUMENT WILL BE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED BY THE OAU. ASKED ABOUT HIS TESTIMONY BEFORE SPECIAL COMMISSION INVESTIGATING THE DEATH OF CHITEPO, A ZIMBABWEAN NATIONALIST, NKOMO SAID HE DID NOT KNOW THE CAUSE OF CHITEPO'S DEATH. "BUT A FACT IS THAT THE FORMER ZANU HAD SPLIT INTO FACTIONS--AN UNFORTUNATE SPLIT--WHICH LED TO THE UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT," HE ADDED.

3. NKOMO REITERATED HIS VIEW THAT NATIONALIST FORCES IN RHODESIA "WILL WELCOME ANY ASSISTANCE BE IT FROM ANYWHERE." HE POINTED OUT THAT HISTORICAL EXPERIENCE SHOWS HELP COMES FROM THE EAST, WHILE "THE WEST HAS ALWAYS REFUSED."

4. NKOMO SAID THAT SINCE THE TALKS WITH SMITH HAVE BROKEN DOWN, "THERE IS NOT ALTERNATIVE NOW BUT TO SUPPORT HIS PHYSICAL WAR GOING ON...BECAUSE IT IS THE ONLY LANGUAGE THE RACISTS UNDERSTAND." SMITH'S RECENT ATTEMPT TO COOPT BLACK SUPPORT BY APPOINTING FOUR TRIBAL CHIEFS TO MINISTRIES IN THE WHITE GOVERNMENT "MAKES NO DIFFERENCE AT ALL" TO POLITICAL SITUATION, HE SAID.

5. ON HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER, NKOMO SAID "WE DISCUSSED THE PROBLEM FACING DECOLONIZATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA. HE HAD HIS VIEWS WHICH WERE PUBLISHED. WHETHER THOSE VIEWS ARE TO BE IMPLEMENTED IS ANOTHER MATTER. AS FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED, WHAT HE SAID WERE STILL VIEWS. IT IS ONLY WHEN THEY ARE EFFECTED THAT YOU CAN ASSESS THEM." NKOMO EVADED A DIRECT QUESTION AS TO HIS OPINION OF THE SECRETARY'S VIEWS, BY SAYING "MY PURPOSE IN HOLDING TALKS WITH DR. KISSINGER WAS NOT NECESSARILY TO AGREE OR DIS-AGREE WITH HIM."

6. NKOMO APPEARED TO TAKE ISSUE WITH THE NOTION THAT SOUTH AFRICAN LEADER VORSTER MAY HAVE A USEFUL ROLE TO PLAY IN DECOLONIZATION OF RHODESIA. HE SAID HE HAS UNCLASSIFIED

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"NEVER KNOWN ANY ROLE THAT VORSTER HAS PLAYED IN ZIMBABWEAN AFFAIRS EXCEPT JUST CONFUSING THE MINDS OF PEOPLE."
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